



## MEMORANDUM OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MANAGER

TO: Honorable Alex Penelas, Mayor  
Honorable Barbara Carey-Shuler,  
Chairperson and Members  
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: November 5, 2003

FROM: John Cosgrove, Chairperson  
Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

SUBJECT: Citizens' Independent Transportation  
Trust, People's Transportation Plan  
One-Year Report and 90 Day Outlook

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the improvements undertaken by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) and Miami-Dade County pursuant to the passage of the People's Transportation Plan and the proposed initiatives slated for the first quarter of 2004.

On November 5, 2002, the voters of Miami-Dade County overwhelmingly passed the People's Transportation Plan. The following summarizes the accomplishments subsequent to the passage of the surtax initiative and the proposed goals and objectives scheduled for the next 90 days.

### Activities since November 5, 2002:

- On November 6, 2002, implemented free fares for Metromover and free transit for all Miami-Dade citizens age 65 and above, regardless of income;
- Held the People's Transportation Plan Municipal Workshop in December 2002 outlining project criteria and guidelines;
- Dedicated and opened the new Florida International University (FIU) Bus Terminal Facility, servicing approximately 1230 passengers per week. FDOT provided 50 percent of funding;
- Opened the South Miami-Dade Busway 168 Street Park and Ride facility on December 16, 2002;
- Broke ground on the South Miami-Dade Busway, Phase II, Segment I from Southwest 211<sup>th</sup> Street to Southwest 264<sup>th</sup> Street;
- Prepared service plans and coordinated implementation of the PTP improvements for Metrorail, which included more frequent service, all night operation, and extension to the Palmetto Metrorail Station;
- Ordered 170 buses (100 full size and 70 mini buses) for 2003 delivery to support the Peoples Transportation Plan (PTP);

- Received a rating of "Recommended" on the North Corridor from the Federal Transit Administration. Prior to the passage of the PTP, the FTA had rated this project as "Not Recommended" due to the County's inability to meet the FTA's fiscal criteria. OPTM immediately provided an updated 20-year financial plan, as required under federal guidelines. The fiscally sound plan must illustrate the county's ability to not only fund the construction, operation and maintenance of the entire North Corridor alignment, but the operation and maintenance of the existing system. Without a minimum rating of "Recommended" or higher rating on the financial plan by the FTA, the project comes to a halt and is not allowed to continue;
- Organized and coordinated the logistics for the Grand Opening Ceremonies of the Palmetto Metrorail Station on May 30, 2003. The opening of the new Palmetto Metrorail Station officially marked the completion of the Palmetto Extension Project. The Palmetto Station is the first station opened since 1989 and is the 22<sup>nd</sup> station in the Metrorail system. The 1.4 mile extension brings the system to approximately 22.4 miles of rail. Over 200 citizens and dignitaries attended the function. Media coverage was extensive with seven television stations, 2 radio stations and 4 print media representatives attending;
- Finalized the Draft of the 2003 Transit Development Program (TDP) Update. The TDP is the agency's most recent operational and capital statistics and factual information plan. It includes the agreed upon 5-year recommended transit service improvements and financial plan. It is updated every year and serves to comply with local and state statutory requirements to remain eligible for state block grant funds;
- Continued to manage the final design and construction of Phase II of the South Miami-Dade Busway Extension to Florida City. Coordinated community approval of the design of neighborhood theme for the busway station at SW 264<sup>th</sup> Street where the community selected a citrus theme to be depicted in the tiled floor of the station. The scheduled date for completion of construction of the busway extension is August 2005;
- Facilitated North Corridor Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings presenting proposed changes to the alignment selected as the Locally Preferred Alternative in 1999. CAC recommended that the County continue development of the Locally Preferred Alternative approved in 1999;
- Initiated the Northeast Passenger Activity Center Alternatives Analysis study, to select a location for this transit hub. Finalized the public involvement plan, sent letters to local officials and community leaders requesting recommendations for the Citizen Advisory Committee and scheduled public meetings;
- Issued Notice to Proceed on the project consists of improvements of the existing Bus Terminal between SW 1st Street and Flagler Street and the extension of the facilities from Flagler Street to NW 1st Street providing for additional bus bays, and a continuous covered walkway from the Government Center Station to the bus facilities. The Downtown Bus Terminal project is a complement of the Flagler Market Place project;
- Initiated the Third Quarterly Progress Report for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for 2003 to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The UPWP is an

annual document that describes and funds all transportation planning activities that are coordinated through the MPO;

- Coordinated press conference activities for the introduction of the seventh new bus route "Flagami Connection." Over 50 residents from the facility, as well as Comm. Sosa and State Rep. Marco Rubio attended this event. Media coverage was as follows: Channel 6/51 - NBC/Telemundo, Channel 23 - Univision (Local), Miami-Dade TV, as well as two weekly Spanish newspapers -- Acontecer Colombiano and Noticias Miami-Dade. Post event write-up with photo caption was prepared and distributed to the media;
- Coordinated with Public Works to ensure the completion of a project timeline for the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub;
- Coordinated planning meetings for the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub at NW 62<sup>nd</sup> Street with community developers and County staff. Participated in additional meetings hosted by the Empowerment Trust with Congressman Kendrick Meek and Congresswoman Carrie Meek (Ret.). Developed a preliminary timeline for the project;
- MDT has hired 257 new employees since November 5<sup>th</sup> and is slated to hire an additional 93 employees in the next 90 days. Total new hires by the end of the year will be approximately 807. These will include 495 new bus operators, 82 bus mechanics and 47 Transit Operations Supervisors;
- Met with Florida Department of Transportation, Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and Tri-Rail to map action plan on development of the East-West line from FIU to Downtown Miami;
- Represented Miami-Dade County at public meetings with the 2020 Transit Coalition, South Florida Workforce, and the passenger outreach program and made presentations on the implementation of the PTP;
- Participated in various community meetings including the Cutler Ridge Charette, the Naranja Community Advisory Community, and the Miami-Dade Transit Coalition conference. Updated members on the status of the PTP and the CITT, and received input from the community on various busway station projects;
- Met with a private jitney owner to discuss the impact of the new Little Haiti Circulator on his route. Investigated the area to determine possible options for service alignment;
- Facilitated the EH/MIC CAC meetings presenting the proposed alignments resulting in the CAC's recommendation and MPO Board action selecting the Locally Preferred Alignment for this corridor;
- Met with staff of South Florida Workforce (SFW) to receive information on transportation needs of their clients to prospective employment sites. Created an extensive compendium of routes and their operating characteristics serving SFW One-Step Centers throughout Miami-Dade County;
- Executive Director met with Congressional Delegation and Staff to discuss status of North and East West Corridors, as well as the County's bus appropriations request;

- Initiated development of OPTM Business Plan;
- Completed the Fiscal Year 2002 Audited Financial Statements, the Single Audit Report (SAR) required by the Federal Government and the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) National Transit Database Report;
- Utilized supplemental agreement to the County's contract for Financial Advisory Service to obtain the services of Public Financial Management (PFM) to provide financial advisory service for transportation;
- Completed the first ever transfer of transit surtax proceeds to local municipalities and developed a municipal contacts database to assure responsiveness and prompt assistance to concerned municipalities. Local municipalities have received approximately \$14 million in surtax funds generated by the one-half percent initiative of November 2002;
- Developed scope of services for a Comprehensive Operations Analysis of the existing bus service, as well as PTP service; to include route-by-route and run-by-run analyses of current service;
- Updated PTP website "Trafficrelief.com" to better serve the community on PTP and CITT activities.
- Developed and implemented radio advertising campaign highlighting PTP accomplishments;
- Initiated and completed Tracking Study; a study that provides transit demographics and passenger, as well as the public's perception of transit services.
- Received fiscal year 2003 State Public Transit Block Grant from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for \$16.1 million for operating funds. Received \$345,000 from FDOT to continue operation of WAGES bus routes as part of Welfare to Work program. Received approval of flexible funding transfer from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for \$600,000 in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds for continued operation of the Bird Road MAX;

#### **Bus Improvements (Since November 5, 2002)**

- Added 357,906 hours of service;
- Added 4,532,373 service miles;
- Entered 66 additional buses into peak hour service;
- Improved 11 routes to 30 minute peak hour service;
- Improved 10 routes to 30 minute midday service;
- Improved 16 routes to 30 minute weekend service;
- Implemented 2 new midday service routes (95 Express and Flagami MAX);
- Added 3 new weekend service routes (6, 28, and 104);
- Implemented 7 new circulator routes: Little Haiti Connection, Coconut Grove Circulator, Little Havana Circulator, Coral Way MAX, Hialeah Gardens Connection, Sweetwater Circulator and the Flagami Circulator;
- Improved 11 countywide routes by adding overnight service;
- Improved 34 countywide routes through schedule adjustments;

**Prepared and submitted FY'05 Federal Legislative package as follows:**

- Requested the reauthorization for all corridors below:
  - Phase II of Metrorail [North Corridor (including the Earlington Heights/Miami Intermodal Center Connector, and East-West Corridor (from the Florida Turnpike to Miami Beach)]
  - Kendall Corridor
  - Northeast Corridor
  - South Dade Corridor
  - Douglas Road Connector
- Seek a Full Funding Grant Agreement for Phase II of Metrorail, a project that links the four corners of the County. Phase II is 23.1 miles - a heavy rail project - with its northernmost terminus located at the Broward/Miami-Dade County line (NW 215 Street) and its southernmost terminus at the Miami Intermodal Center connecting with Miami International Airport; its easternmost terminus begins at the Port of Miami and ends at the Palmetto Expressway ( Minimum Operable Segment).
- Seek an appropriations request of \$20 million in New Starts funds for Final Design and Construction of Phase II.

**Bus Related Appropriations**

- Bus Service Enhancements: A \$10 million funding request of discretionary federal bus and bus-related funds is requested to enhance current levels of service to meet our growing transportation demand, including expanding 24-hour bus service.
- South Florida Regional Integrated Fare Collection System: Under the umbrella of the Regional Transportation Authority, the County is seeking \$34 million to procure and implement a common fare collection system that will make travel between Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties seamless, convenient and cost effective.

**TEA-21 Reauthorization General Priorities:**

- To allow under limited circumstances, Federal Transit Administration approval on the advanced acquisition of property (land banking concept) through "Protective Buy Agreements."
- Strengthen transportation funding guarantees. The Firewall and Revenue Aligned Budget Authority provisions of TEA-21 should be strengthened to ensure that all revenues in the Highway Trust Fund are spent for their intended purpose.
- Increase funding for transportation from the Highway Trust Fund and General Fund, such as (1) the elimination of the 2.5 cents per gallon of gasohol transfer to the General Fund, (2) rebating the 5.2 cents per gallon of subsidy for gasohol from the General Fund, and (3) spending down the balance of funds in the Highway Trust Fund.
- Maximize the return of funding to Florida; the next federal act should guarantee Florida at least a 95% rate of return on all funds distributed to the states.
- Expand innovative financing techniques, such as leverage leases, etc.

**Prepared and submitted FY 04 State Legislative Package as follows:**

- \$10 million requested for Phase II of Metrorail (includes the North Corridor and EW-MOS);
- Support legislation that would provide additional revenues for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program and;
- Support legislation that would provide additional funds for the Medicaid Transportation

Program and;

- Support language modification to Chapter 316 and Chapter 322.61 to comply with new federal legislation that requires state's to disqualify individuals convicted of "serious" traffic violations from being issued a Commercial Driver's License.
- Support legislative language enabling the Board of County Commissioners from each county served by the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to levy an annual license tax in the amount of \$2 for the registration/renewal of each vehicle. The annual license tax shall take effect in any county served by the authority upon approval of its Board of County Commissioners.

**Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT):**

- Mailed notices to the twenty civic and business organizations appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to nominate names;
- Presented names of Nomination Committee, for Board approval, to the Board of County Commissioners at their January 23, 2003 meeting;
- Impaneled the representatives of the twenty civic and business organizations appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to compose the Nominating Committee of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust (CITT);
- At the direction of the Nominating Committee, advertised for applicants to the (CITT). The Nominating Committee extended application deadline to April 7, 2003;
- Aired over five hundred (500) "60 second" radio spots in English, Spanish and Creole; appeared in over a dozen television and radio interview programs; placed advertisements in local English, Spanish, and Creole language newspapers;
- Received and processed one hundred and thirty-three (133) completed applications that were submitted by residents of Miami-Dade County;
- Convened the Nominating Committee on April 11, 2003 to review and select Commission District slates for representation on the CITT;
- Nominating Committee selected and forwarded the thirteen (13) Commission Districts slates to the members of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners for their consideration at the Commission meeting of April 22, 2003;
- Nominating Committee met on April 24, 2003 to select CITT slates to submit to the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County League of Cities and address any other issues;
- Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners ratified their selections at BCC meetings of April 22, 2003, and May 6, 2003;
- Convened first meeting of the CITT on May 7, 2003;

- Reviewed and forwarded Municipal Interlocal Agreement forms with amendments, to the Board of County Commissioners;
- Selected John Cosgrove as Chairperson and Marc Buoniconti as Vice-Chairperson;
- CITT has held 8 meetings of the full board.
- CITT created five sub-committees: Project Review Committee, External Affairs Committee, Compliance, Oversight Committee and Budget and Finance Committee, and the Executive Planning Committee;
- Convened and supported over twenty-five CITT sub-committee meetings;
- The Project Review Subcommittee reviewed all projects in the PTP and recommended deletion of the proposed "170<sup>th</sup> Street" road-widening project. Recommendation forwarded to Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval. BCC approved recommendation of CITT;
- Recommended to Board of County Commissioners for approval Bus Service Improvements that were omitted from the PTP. BCC approved recommendation of CITT;
- Convened CITT Nominating Committee to recommend new slates to Commission
- Presented letter of support and resolution to the CITT supporting the reauthorization of the six Rail Corridors as outlined in the PTP. Resolution will be utilized as support documentation in the County's legislative package, as well as a tool to seek support from other business, civic and social organizations in the County's lobbying effort for federal and state appropriations and legislative action;

#### **Activities planned for the next 90 days**

The following is a list of initiatives to be undertaken within the next 90 days by the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust:

- Coordinate with Public Works to ensure the completion of a project timeline for the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Hub;
- Submit Interlocal Agreements with local municipalities to the CITT for their approval;
- Distribute and monitor the implementation of the one-half percent surtax to municipalities;
- Produce and distribute quarterly report and audit of the expenditure of the one-half percent surtax to the CITT for their approval and subsequently to the Board of County Commissioners and the public in general;
- Coordinate and host the first annual Transportation Conference.

- Coordinate and host workshop to facilitate assistance to municipalities in the implementation of the municipal component of the PTP.
- Coordinate press event for the Smart Commute Program.
- Phase 2 update of [trafficrelief.com](http://trafficrelief.com); to include bus service improvement depicted at a local level/by region, etc...
- Develop the CITT's business plan.

cc: Members, Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust

George M. Burgess, County Manager

Carlos Bonzon, Ph.D., P.E., Surface Transportation Manager